(e) the concrete measures taken to check such disease?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (DR. C. SILVERA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) National Institute of Communicable Diseases and its 12 Regional Centres coordinate viral hapatitis surveillance by procuring and distributing diagnostic kits to the Regional Centres.

(d) Contaminated food and water and poor personal hygiene are responsible for spread of viral hepatitis A & E. Contaminated injection needles, blood, blood products and unsafe sex are responsible for spread of viral hepatitis B, C & D. Alcohol, diabetis mallitus and malnouraishment are responsible for many other liver diseases.

(e) Govt. has placed emphasis on strengthening of public health system, improving sanitation, supply of potable water and provision of health education.

Polio cases in India

6408. SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR BIRLA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to State:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the press news-item under the caption "Polio cases highest in Indian sub-continent" as reported in "The Pioneer" dated the 7th April, 1995;

(b) if so, whether the incidence of cases of polio is the highest in India and also continues to rise;

(c) whether the schemes formulated by Government from time to time check the spread of polio patients have totally collapsed; and

(d) if so, whether Government, with the help of foreign agencies, propose to take any concrete steps and if so, the details thereof?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI PABAN SINGH GHATOWAR): (a) Govt. has seen the news item.

(b) to (d) The number of reported cases of poliomyelitis have declined from 32184 in 1981 to 6174 in 1994. The Universal Immunization Programme was started in 1985-86 for increasing the immunization coverage levels. In addition to sustaining high levels of coverage, supplementary activities have been started for the eradication of poliomyelitis. Donor agencies are supporting the immunization programme.

SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM: Mr. Chairman, Sir, the State Governments may provide necessary infrastructure support like provision of industrial sites, shops, water on a preferential basis to these entrepreneurs. Sir, many State Governments are providing various tax

Demand to ban somking by Minors

6409. SHRI GHUFRAN AZAM: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to State:

(a) whether there is a persistent demand to put a ban on smoking by minors in the country;

(b) if so, whether the Union Government propose to bring forward a legislation to ban smoking by minors;

(c) if so, by when and if not, the reasons therefor; and

(d) what other steps Government propose to take to discourage the minors from smoking?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (DR. C. SILVERA): (a) to (d) There is a proposal to bring a comprehensive legislation to discourage use of tobacco and tobacco products, including smoking.